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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

#7/2/00/723
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H. Butte

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231, ON THE DATE INDICATED BELOW.

BY: Judi E. Morgan

DATE: November 25, 2002

PATENT
Box Non-Fee Amendment (Pats)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re:	Patent Application of	: Group Art Unit: 1723
	Masaaki Ando, <i>et al.</i>	:
		:
Conf. No.:	7728	:
		:
Appln. No.:	09/899,649	: Examiner: Sun U Kim
		:
Filed:	July 5, 2001	:
		:
For:	RUNNING METHOD AND TREATMENT	: Attorney Docket
	SYSTEM FOR SPIRAL WOUND	: No. 9982-21US
	MEMBRANE ELEMENT AND SPIRAL	: (1108US)
	WOUND MEMBRANE MODULE	:

TO THE PATENT OFFICE
NOV 27 2002
1108US

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

This is in response to the Office Action mailed October 23, 2002 (Paper No.6) in the above-identified application. This response is being timely filed on or before November 25, 2002 (as November 23rd is a Saturday).


The Examiner has required election between three allegedly distinct species. More specifically, the Examiner believes that: claims 1-14 read on Species 1 drawn to injecting gas from one opening end of a perforated hollow pipe; claims 15-16 and 18-25 read on Species 2 drawn to diffusing bubbles into a liquid coming into contact with the surface of the separation membrane; and claim 17 reads on Species 3 drawn to supplying ultrasonic vibrations to a liquid coming into contact with the surface of the separation membrane.

While not necessarily agreeing with the election requirement, Applicants provisionally elect, without traverse, Species 1 (claims 1-14) for initial prosecution of this application. Examination and an early Notice of Allowance of at least the elected claims are respectfully requested.

Applicants note that the Examiner has not acknowledged Applicants' claim of foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and the receipt of the priority documents filed as part of this application on July 5, 2001. Acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and receipt of the priority documents is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MASAAKI ANDO *ET AL.*

11/25/02 By: 
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